

2006 AmeriCorps Launch

The 2006 Kentucky AmeriCorps Launch was a huge success! The three-day training event for 175 first- and second-year AmeriCorps members was held at the Capital Plaza Hotel in Frankfort. Members serve in one of nine programs across the state, covering more than 68 counties.

Members had the opportunity to socialize with members from other AmeriCorps programs, all while learning tips, techniques and other valuable information to help them during their year of service. Sessions covered topics such as team building, disability accommodation, volunteer recruitment, organizational skills and emergency preparedness. The Launch also enabled members to understand the “big picture” of national service. One member commented, “I learned just how much my services are needed in our country.”

Trainers and presenters included Jeffrey Morales of the Corporation for National and Community Service Office of Inspector General, Patricia Thurman of Patricia Thurman Training Inc., Mike King, Lanny Taulbee of the Kentucky Commission on Community Volunteerism and Service, Rose Johnson of the American Red Cross, Regina Horine of the Office of Labor-Management Relations and Mediation in the Kentucky Department of Labor, Sarah Elliston of the United Way of Cincinnati, and Tandy Hubbard of the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security.



The event concluded with a memorable induction ceremony on the steps of the state Capitol. Members marched up the steps with their program signs proudly displayed. The AmeriCorps pledge was administered by Mark D. Birdwhistell, Secretary for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services. He commented that AmeriCorps’ impact on the communities it serves has value-added benefits long after members’ terms have ended.

“Because of AmeriCorps members, children learn to read; seniors continue to live independently; neighborhoods are made safer; and, young people develop skills to become leaders in their communities,” Birdwhistell said. “AmeriCorps members likewise benefit from pride in accomplishment and the honor and satisfaction of having made a difference in the lives of others.”